

SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING
Seymour Middle School

September 15, 2008
7:30 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bruce Baker, Chairman
Frederick Stanek
Jason Buchsbaum
Judith Flood
Jeanne Loda
Rhonda Geffert
James Garofolo
James Ward (arrived 7:43 P.M.)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Rose Marie Yitts

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE:

Allie Bachyrycz

OTHERS PRESENT:

MaryAnne Mascolo, Superintendent of Schools
Christine Syriac, Associate Superintendent
Richard Belden, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations
Mary Sue Feige, Principal, Bungay School
Kristen Bruno, Administrative Intern, Bungay School
Edward L. Strumello
Sandy Plumb
Al and Reg Krivickas
Scotta Simoneau
Stephanie Gaudeosi

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Bruce Baker, Chairman, called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:32 P.M.

II. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS:

A) Recognitions

1. Ms. Mascolo recognized student Ambassador to the British Isles, Tim Rinkerman, Jr. who traveled overseas in July as part of the People to People Student Ambassador Program. He visited England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland.
2. Ms. Mascolo noted that football coach, Paul Sponheimer had attained his 200th High school coaching victory. She advised that a letter of congratulations would be sent.

B) Board Correspondence

1. Chatfield-LoPresti School Building Committee Meeting – September 2, 2008
2. Chatfield-LoPresti School Building Committee Meeting-September 3, 2008
3. Rich Kearns-September 9, 2008 letter describing the upcoming Freestyle Motor-Cross Halftime show at Seymour High School
4. Rick Belden-Letter to the Federal Communications Commission supporting the proposed addition of “telephone broadcasting messaging” to the list of services eligible for support under the School and Libraries E-rate Program.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A) Approval of Minutes
- B) Staff Hiring – Non-Certified
 - 1. Tucciarone, Susan
 - 2. Zaccagnini, Lisa
- C) Staff Hiring – Appendix E
 - 1. Freeman, Gary
 - 2. Scharn, Ashly
- D) Volunteers
 - 1. Burns, James
- E) Staff Resignations – Certified
 - 1. Perna, James
- F) Staff Resignations – Non-Certified
 - 1. Gonzalez, Millie

Mrs. Flood and Mrs. Geffert requested removal of the resignations of James Perna and Millie Gonzalez from the Consent Agenda.

- G) Budget transfers
- H) Request to participate on Seymour athletic team
 - 1. Shortell, Lauren
- I) Notice of intent to home school
 - 1. Ms. Kelli Poulos-Huwer
 - 2. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Mainolfi, Jr.
- J) Informal Distributions
 - 1. Seymour High School – September Calendar of Events
 - 2. Seymour High School – September Newsletter
 - 3. Education Law Today – MEHIP: Cure-all or Dangerous?
 - 4. Nancy Wyman, State Comptroller – July 3, 2008 letter regarding MEHIP

MOTION 08-3649: (Mrs. Flood/Mrs. Geffert) to approve the consent agenda as modified with the removal of Jim Perna and Millie Gonzalez

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Baker, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Buchsbaum, Mrs. Flood, Mrs. Loda, Mrs. Geffert, Mr. Garofolo

V. ITEMS REMOVED CONSENT AGENDA

- A) Staff Resignations – Certified
 - 1. Perna, James
- B) Staff Resignations – Non-Certified
 - 1. Gonzalez, Millie

Discussion ensued as to the description and duties of the position and the ramifications to the budget when the Guidance coordinator position is filled. Ms. Mascolo noted the importance of the responsibilities of the position. Mr. Stanek questioned as to whether the position held similarities to that of the department heads. It was also noted that an earlier resignation in the guidance department was not replaced.

MOTION: (Mrs. Flood/Mrs. Geffert) to accept the resignations of Jim Perna and Millie Gonzalez.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Baker, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Buchsbaum, Mrs. Flood, Mrs. Loda, Mrs. Geffert, Mr. Garofolo

Mr. Stanek amended the motion to read Millie Gonzalez' resignation is accepted with regret.

VI. INFORMATION AND REPORTS

A. Curriculum

1. CMT Presentation- Mary Lavoie and Christine Syriac

Mrs. Syriac and Mrs. Lavoie gave a detailed presentation of the CMT results. Many questions, issues and ideas were posed by board members in regard to the results. Mrs. Syriac stressed the importance of reading specialists and literacy support personnel in improving scores in the upcoming year. Resources being used were discussed, such as Storytown in the elementary schools and the new McDougal-Littell Anthology being introduced at the middle school. Mrs. Lavoie and Mrs. Syriac referred to other programs being initiated to improve scores such as the institution of a District Data Team which will work to better analyze and utilize student data and ways to utilize the current school student data system to incorporate such data. The district will be continually working to challenge students to achieve.

B. Student Report

1. Meet the Teachers will be held at Seymour High School on September 18, 2008. Miss Bachyrycz reported that National Honor Society members will be available throughout the school to direct parents as needed.
2. Pumpkin Festival- Seymour High School will be represented with booths at the Festival.

Miss Bachyrycz left the meeting at 8:45 P.M.

C. Committee Reports

1. Finance Committee Meeting – September 15, 2008- Transfers were approved as needed. Mr. Belden reported that laptops to library media specialists and smart boards were being distributed in response to an inquiry from Mrs. Geffert.
2. Athletic Committee- September 4, 2008-Mr. Stanek reported that the principal issue discussed at this meeting was the request of parents to reinstate the Seymour High School Wrestling program through the use of parent funding. The athletic committee voted to accept this gift from the parents to fund the program. The committee advised the group that this did not mean the Board of Education would be able to fund the program in upcoming years. The parent group acknowledged this statement from the committee.

MOTION 08-3650: (Mr. Stanek, sec. Mrs. Loda) to move this item to Item VI B.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Baker, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Buchsbaum, Mrs. Flood, Mrs. Loda, Mrs. Geffert, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Ward

The athletic committee also noted that discussions were still continuing on the upkeep and use of the football field.

D. Chairman's Report

1. Mr. Baker advised the group that the Chatfield-LoPresti Building Committee had attended Meet the Teachers nights at both LoPresti School and Bungay School. They received positive reactions from parents at both schools. They will attend Chatfield School's Meet the Teacher night on Wednesday, September 16. There were some parking concerns with the new building which have been addressed. Mrs. Geffert noted that she has heard positive reactions and support from townspeople.
2. Mr. Garofolo expressed a concern at this time in regard to the proximity of updating school websites.
3. Mrs. Flood asked Ms. Mascolo about receiving a summary of flyers that were being distributed by the school system.
4. Mr. Stanek questioned the use of signs on school properties in regard to time limitations posting and removing them.
5. Mrs. Geffert asked about the cost of facility use throughout the district. Mr. Belden noted that Mr. Natzel was working on those figures.

E. Superintendent's Report

1. CABA Policy Audit- Ms. Mascolo advised that Seymour is doing well. The policy committee will continue to work on updating policies.
2. The Seymour Public Schools Senior Citizen pass is now available at the Senior Center through the director.
3. Mrs. Geffert expressed a request that there be more interaction amongst town schools as far as activities in their buildings. Ways to improve communication and interaction were discussed.

VII. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A. Request for out of state field trip

1. Mr. Fleming and Ms. Cunningham-West Springfield, MA

MOTION 08-3651 (Mr. Ward/Mrs. Loda) to approve the request for Chatfield Grade 5 students to attend a field trip to the Big E in West Springfield, MA on September 22, 2008.

It was noted by Ms. Mascolo that student work from attendance at this event will be provided to the Board.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Baker, Mr. Buchsbaum, Mrs. Flood, Mrs. Loda, Mrs. Geffert, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Ward, Mr. Stanek

2. Mr. Willadsen and Mr. Schneider-Warwick, Rhode Island

MOTION 08-3652 (Mrs. Loda/Mrs. Geffert) to approve the request for the Seymour High School boys and girls cross country teams to attend a field trip to the New Balance Ocean State Cross Country Invitational in Warwick, R.I. on September 27, 2008.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Baker, Mr. Buchsbaum, Mrs. Flood, Mrs. Loda, Mrs. Geffert, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Ward, Mr. Stanek

B. Athletic Committee – Wrestling Program (added from Committee Reports C 2)

1. Mr. Stanek reported that the principal issue discussed at this meeting was the request of parents to reinstate the Seymour High School Wrestling program through the use of parent funding. The athletic committee voted to accept this gift from the parents to fund the program. The committee advised the group that this did not mean the Board of Education would be able to fund the program in upcoming years. The parent group acknowledged this statement from the committee.

MOTION 08-3653: (Mr. Stanek, sec. Mrs. Flood) that the Board of Education accept the parents gift to fully fund the Seymour High School Wrestling program for the 2008-09 school year only.

Mrs. Geffert questioned if the parent group had the funds readily available. Mr. Stanek said that he was advised that they were.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Baker, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Buchsbaum, Mrs. Flood, Mrs. Loda, Mrs. Geffert, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Ward.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 08-S654 (Mrs. Loda/Mrs. Geffert) to adjourn the meeting

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Baker, Mr. Buchsbaum, Mrs. Flood, Mrs. Loda, Mrs. Geffert, Mr. Garofolo, Mr. Ward, Mr. Stanek

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 P.M.

Submitted by
Lisa Willadsen, Clerk (Substitute)